



homefront

Wisconsin Homeland Security Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2005

wisconsin homeland security newsletter debuts

In this Issue:

page three

Update on Wisconsin's Homeland Security funding

page four

CERT prepares families, neighbors for emergencies

page five

Citizen Corps enlists communities, groups, youth

page six

Local agencies develop emergency health response plans

page seven

Water test kits deployed to local communities

I am pleased to present *Homefront*, Wisconsin's new homeland security newsletter. As citizens of Wisconsin, we are fortunate to live in one of the safest states in the country. Not only are our emergency first responders among the best trained in the nation, but we are currently engaged in a number of new efforts to increase training directly aimed at responding to emergencies, whether it is an act of terrorism or a natural disaster. Equally important are our ongoing activities to prevent disasters, including terrorist acts, from happening in the first place. Law enforcement and other public safety agencies across the state are being proactive, working to identify potential threats and prevent terrorist attacks.

This year alone, Wisconsin was awarded \$37.5 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help prepare our state and citizens for coordinated responses to potential threats. These funds are used for a wide range of homeland security initiatives including the purchase of modern detection and prevention equipment such as security systems and personal protective equipment, improving public safety radio interoperability and law enforcement information sharing and developing the capacity of schools and communities to respond in disaster situations.

Homeland security is important to



Jim Doyle
Jim Doyle
Wisconsin Governor

everyone. There are ways for each one of us to get involved, and I urge you to join our efforts to keep Wisconsin safe. I am proud to be the Governor of a state where citizens take the safety of their neighbors and communities seriously. My administration will do everything within its power to protect our citizens.

In this newsletter you will learn about what we have done to keep Wisconsin safe and what you can do to help. Thank you for your support. ■



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Homeland Security Council

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From the Chair

Welcome to the first issue of *Homefront*, the state of Wisconsin's first homeland security newsletter.

Since being appointed by Governor Doyle as Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor in March 2003, it has been my goal to develop effective means to keep our first responders, government agencies, businesses and citizens well informed about the efforts that have been made to make Wisconsin safe and secure. The focus of this newsletter is to provide an ongoing review of the training, exercises and accomplishments that support the goals of Homeland Security in the Great Badger State.

In many cases, Wisconsin is at the forefront in the nation for planning and training efforts. Wisconsin was the first state to have an Animal Health Emergency Management System. In addition, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) and the Department of Natural Resources have joined forces to develop special portable water testing kits that are located across the state to ensure our water supply is safe.

There still is much work left to be done. Earlier this summer, Governor Doyle officially kicked off the state's efforts to develop Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations Plans for all state agencies. Under the leadership of the Department of Administration, the state is developing contingency plans to make sure we continue to provide critical state functions and can be back in business quickly following a major disaster such as a tornado or act of terrorism.

I would also like to welcome Dr. Sheri Johnson, Administrator with the Division of Public Health of DHFS to the State of Wisconsin's Homeland Security Council. We look forward to working with Dr. Johnson and gathering her knowledge and experience on important public health matters.



Robert H. Wilkening
Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening
Homeland Security Advisor

“Homeland Security is our top priority. It remains a work in progress dedicated to success.”

Finally, I would like to mention that Governor Doyle has declared the month of September as Preparedness Month in Wisconsin. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage citizens to develop emergency plans, put together an emergency supply kit and be informed about programs such as Citizen Corps and attend Community Emergency Response Team Training. There is excellent information about these and other programs on the Wisconsin Homeland Security web site at <http://homelandsecurity.wi.gov>. ■

goals of homeland security

awareness
prevention
preparedness
response
recovery



Emergency response crews from the Milwaukee area participated in a full-scale terrorism exercise at the Milwaukee County Airport on May 26, 2005. The exercise focused on the ability to coordinate response activities using the Incident Command System. Over 200 emergency responders and volunteers participated in the airport exercise representing various fire and law enforcement departments, EMS, public health, emergency management, volunteer groups and General Mitchell International Airport.

Homeland Security — Equipment and Training Grants

After several years of increasing Homeland Security funds from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Wisconsin's share decreased in 2005. The reductions occurred across the nation. This year DHS allocated \$37.5 million to Wisconsin. This money is divided into six grant programs:

■ State Homeland

Security Grant Program — \$19,787,340

■ Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention — \$6,325,872

■ Urban Area Strategic Initiative — \$7,195,398

■ Citizen Corps — \$251,200

■ Emergency Management Performance — \$3,236,049

■ Metropolitan Medical Response System — \$455,184

Although Wisconsin saw a decrease in funding, over 80 percent will still be allocated to local and tribal units of government. Emergency responders around the state will be well equipped and trained to prevent and respond to any disaster.

A breakdown of Homeland Security funds can be found on the Office of Justice Assistance web site at <http://oja.state.wi.us>.

Bioterrorism Funding

The Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Family Services administers two large federal grants which fund bioterrorism and emergency preparedness in the areas of public health and hospitals. In the 2004-2005 federal fiscal year, the Public Health grant award was \$14,811,846. This compares to \$19,031,482 received in the previous federal fiscal year of 2003-2004, a decrease of over 22 percent.

The 2004-2005 Federal Fiscal Year grant award for Hospitals was \$9,180,277 which remained the same for the previous Federal Fiscal Year. DHFS has been informed that the funding that will be awarded for the 2005-2006 Federal Fiscal Year for both the Public Health and Hospital grants will remain the same as the 2004-2005 year. ■

State EOC renovations completed

The new State of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center is now ready to be activated during major emergencies and disasters. This year, the state EOC in Madison underwent major renovations. The total project cost was \$529,000 and was paid for with a combination of federal and state funds. The new facility has over 6 miles of various data and electrical cables, 30 desks, 4 overhead projectors, and many other features. The old EOC was built in the early 1990's. With the expanded use of the EOC in recent years, additional space and equipment were needed.



Helping neighbors, helping families

free disaster training for Wisconsin citizens

Learning how to become better prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies is the focus of free training that is being held across Wisconsin.

In the last two years, more than 500 Wisconsin citizens have participated in approximately 60 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes. The CERT program teaches citizens how

to not only help their families be better prepared for emergencies, but also how to assist their neighbors when emergencies or disasters strike. CERT is a national training program that prepares citizens to respond in both man-made and natural disasters.

The CERT Program involves a series of classes which includes presentations, discussions and hands on experience on topics ranging from disaster preparedness, fire suppression, first aid, and search and rescue. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community. For more information on CERT training, go to the Homeland Security web site at <http://homelandsecurity.wi.gov>. ■



Participants in a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training held in Kenosha practice using a fire extinguisher. More than 60 CERT courses have been held across the state in the last few years.

ready, set, go

Ready Camp prepares teens

Wisconsin teens participated in the first Ready Camp this summer. The campers learned about emergency preparedness at events held at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and at Volk Field. Organizers hope this camp will be held annually.



Guard tests 'real world' response

The Wisconsin National Guard's Joint Operation Center (JOC) has been in the planning stages for the last year, determining how the National Guard can best respond to catastrophic emergencies or disasters. The JOC is a "one-stop-shop" for military support. Its mission is to plan and coordinate a response and facilitate the use of state and federal military assets. The group's first test arrived in June with an exercise tailored to see how the National Guard would respond in the event of a nuclear explosion.

The exercise coincided with real-world training being conducted by the 54th Civil Support Team (CST) based in Madison. The unit was readying for Department of Defense (DOD) certification as a state CST, conducted by 1st Army evaluators in July. The 54th CST completed the evaluation successfully and is scheduled for certification in the fall.



Members of the Wisconsin National Guard 54th Civil Support Team practice wearing personal protective equipment as part of their exercise this summer.

September is Preparedness Month in Wisconsin

Governor Doyle has proclaimed the Month of September as Preparedness Month as part of a campaign to educate and empower Wisconsin Citizens to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. The goal is to get the public involved and to increase the level of basic preparedness across Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Citizen Corps

Preventing terrorism, putting out a fire, or tending to an injured citizen. That is what the Wisconsin Citizen Corps program is all about. In this day and age, keeping our communities safe starts with everyday citizens, in other words, the safety of your community starts with you.

The Citizen Corps program is designed to encourage community participation in domestic preparedness through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service. Citizen Corps supports several state programs that you can get involved in. These programs include; Wisconsin Terrorism Awareness and Prevention (WisTAP), Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth (READY), and Student Emergency Response Training (SERT).

In September 2004, Governor Doyle issued Executive Order #67, creating the State of Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council. The Council, chaired by Racine County Executive William McReynolds, acts as an advisory council for the newly created Wisconsin Citizen Corps program.

So whether your interest is preventing terrorism, or offering medical assistance, the Citizen Corps program has something for you. This is the perfect opportunity for you to help your community.

More information on Wisconsin Citizen Corps can be found at www.citizencorps.wi.gov. ■

public health agencies develop emergency response plans

As part of the state's bioterrorism preparedness efforts, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Public Health has been working with local public health agencies and hospitals in developing comprehensive emergency response plans as well as exercising those plans.

In recent years, the public health and hospital response capacity has been increased at the state and local levels by providing staff training on emergency preparedness, acquiring additional disease investigators, and developing an online Health Alert Network for rapid, around-the-clock notification and information exchange among response partners.

In addition this past spring, DHFS announced the completion of Wisconsin's Public Health and Hospital Emergency Plans. The plans were developed following the National Response Plan format and provide for operation under the Incident Command System. The plans are available at DHFS web site at www.dhfs.wi.gov/preparedness.

In other program news, staff from the Radiation Protection Section in the Division of Public Health sponsored radiological terrorism response training



Wisconsin field team staff checks emergency responders for radioactive contamination as part of a dirty bomb exercise held at the Argonne National Laboratory located near Chicago in May 2005.

involving approximately 50 local, state and federal responders at Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago for three days this past May.

Staff from the FBI and the U.S. Department of Energy also participated in two extensive full-scale response exercises. One simulated a "dirty bomb" explosion and the other involved

recovery of a lost radiological source. The primary benefits of the training were the opportunity to interact with fire department personnel using incident command, respond to a radiological incident of malicious intent, interact with the FBI since a terrorism incident is automatically a crime scene, and practice radiation survey techniques. The training provided valuable insight to all attendees. ■

Strengthening coordination of labs

The response by laboratories, hospitals and health departments to a pandemic influenza and other outbreaks was discussed this spring at meetings held across the state for members of the Wisconsin Laboratory Response Network (WLRN).

As the lead terrorism and emergency response laboratory in the state, the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) has been focusing on strengthening relationships with the 125 sentinel clinical laboratories around the state. These sentinel labs -- associated with hospitals, clinics and local public health departments -- serve as the laboratory front line in emergency response. They along with the WSLH and its

two partner reference laboratories in the state -- Marshfield Clinical Research Foundation and City of Milwaukee Health Department -- make up the Wisconsin Laboratory Response Network (WLRN).

The regional meetings held in May, gave WLRN members an opportunity to learn the latest on state and national activities related to laboratory preparedness and response to bioterrorism, chemical terrorism and other public health emergencies. Staff from the WSLH, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, clinical laboratories and local health departments also discussed the specific roles that their organizations would play in responding to a terrorism event or public health emergency. ■

Agroterrorism: Protecting our food supply



More than 30 state and federal animal health professionals learned how to use personal protective equipment during a training event in Madison this past spring.

Agriculture is a \$51 billion industry in the state of Wisconsin. That's why the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is addressing potential agriculture terrorism issues that could affect the food supply and economic viability of our state.

Preparedness in the form of planning, training and exercising is a highlight of DATCP's efforts. Staff are not only trained in the Incident Command System (ICS), but are also teaching ICS to others in the agriculture community so that they understand how emergencies are managed. In addition, DATCP has participated in a variety of exercises with counties and others on issues including avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, food tampering and other scenarios so

that they are practiced in responding to an incident.

DATCP has also used federal homeland security funds to ensure we have the equipment necessary to respond to a food or agriculture incident. Sampling equipment, monitors, microscopes, laboratory analyses, animal containment equipment and communications equipment, including satellite capabilities are all readily available to staff should they be needed for an incident.

Lastly, DATCP has put a high priority on establishing, enhancing and working with a variety of external partners, who by working together, will allow food and agriculture emergency responses to be as efficient and effective as possible. ■

state distributes water sampling kits

Several state agencies have been putting together water testing kits that will be used when officials fear that a local water supply may be contaminated.

Staff with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health, the State Laboratory of Hygiene and the Department of Natural Resources helped form the State Water Contamination Response Workgroup. This workgroup has developed procedures and assembled sampling kits.

These kits will be located throughout Wisconsin and will be used in response to incidents requiring the sampling of municipal water supplies in the event of accidental or intentional contamination. Statewide training sessions were provided in August. ■



Steve Elmore with the Department of Natural Resources shows some of the equipment that is in the water sampling kits during a recent meeting of the Wisconsin Homeland Security Council. Over 200 emergency sampling kits have been placed around the state at municipal drinking water sites.



Students attending a rescue technicians course at the new REACT Center at Volk Field learn how to move victims to safety from hazardous areas or conditions.

Regional teams REACT to disasters

All across Wisconsin jurisdictions are pulling together and forming regional teams to respond to disasters. With the formation of these specialty teams, a facility was needed to train them.

The Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) teamed up to create the Regional Emergency All Climate Training, or REACT Center at Volk Field. The REACT Center will be a high tech, one of a kind facility.

After visiting several existing facilities in other parts of the nation, OJA and DMA have taken the best practices and applied them to the REACT Center. In addition to four classrooms, there will be two distant learning centers, a dynamic entry building, a collapse building, two rubble piles, a derailed train and aircraft for training on rescuing victims or hostages, and a mass vehicle disaster.

The first phase of construction is complete and the second phase is underway. The REACT Center is expected to be completed by spring 2006. ■

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